

****Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

****To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.***

1 – Climate change warning is dire in new landmark report, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 10/7/18

https://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2018/10/climate_change_warning_is_dire.html#incart_river_index

The world stands on the brink of failure when it comes to holding global warming to moderate levels, and nations will need to take "unprecedented" actions to cut their carbon emissions over the next decade, according to a landmark report by the globe's top scientific body studying climate change.

2 - Report makes case for more ambitious global climate pact, E&E News, 10/9/18

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060101813>

The goal posts for the Paris Agreement have moved. In short, the long-term goal enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep warming to "well below 2 degrees" isn't enough anymore.

3 - Focus on 'how hard to apply the brakes,' experts say, E&E News, 10/9/18

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2018/10/05/stories/1060100605>

A much-anticipated report from the world's leading authorities on climate change has reignited a debate over the usefulness of the "carbon budget."

4 – EPA's new carbon plan won't slow coal unit shutdowns: utilities, Reuters, 10/5/18

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-carbon-utilities/epas-new-carbon-plan-wont-slow-coal-unit-shutdowns-utilities-idUSKCN1MF1BX>

The Trump administration's replacement of Obama-era carbon regulations will not save U.S. coal-fired power plants from shutdown, according to a Reuters survey of utilities, spelling bad news for Trump's efforts to revive the ailing coal industry.

5 - Solar, wind helping to cut CO2 emissions, government says, Houston Chronicle, 10/8/18

<https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Solar-wind-helping-to-cut-CO2-emissions-13284624.php>

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions decreased nearly 1 percent last year as the nation shifted further away from coal-fired power generation and more toward cleaner sources of electricity, including natural gas and renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

6 – In state, drinking water in tests below EPA limit for 14 chemicals, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 10/7/18

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/oct/07/in-state-drinking-water-in-tests-ok-201/>

As federal regulators weigh the possibility of regulating a harmful set of chemicals found in millions of Americans' drinking water, no testing conducted in Arkansas appears to show the chemicals' presence in the state's drinking water.

7 – Trump to allow year-round sales of high-ethanol gasoline, KTBS, 10/7/18

https://www.ktbs.com/news/texas/trump-to-allow-year-round-sales-of-high-ethanol-gasoline/article_b621034b-d9c1-5461-9b23-206127a2e45a.html

The Trump administration is moving to allow year-round sales of gasoline with higher blends of ethanol, a boon for Iowa and other farm states that have pushed for greater sales of the corn-based fuel.

8 – Farm bill tensions simmer, Politico, 10/5/18

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-agriculture/2018/10/05/farm-bill-tensions-simmer-363401>

House and Senate agriculture leaders emerged from an hourlong meeting in the basement of the Capitol on Thursday trying to send a signal of unity: The four lawmakers posed for a photo with locked arms. Behind the scenes, however, talks have been slow and tense.

9 – TCEQ continues efforts to resolve Craft-Turney water emergency, CBS 19, 10/5/18

<https://www.cbs19.tv/article/news/local/tceq-continues-efforts-to-resolve-craft-turney-water-emergency/501-601323981>

The Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. let the TCEQ about a backflow incident affecting a small part of the system, 11 connections total on Wednesday.

10 - Report: Fire under control at Plaquemine chemical plant; road closed nearby, Baton Rouge Advocate, 10/9/18

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/crime_police/article_b10cd6bc-cbbc-11e8-8ff6-fbebe0641078.html

Some people in Northwest Arkansas were concerned when they received a notice from their water authority stating there had been an EPA violation in the level of a certain chemical.

11 – OPINION: Trump’s EPA sending mixed signals to S.A., San Antonio Express-News, 10/9/18

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Trump-s-EPA-sending-mixed-signals-to-S-A-13285553.php>

So far this year, at least 13 days were considered unsafe for breathing outside. President Donald Trump’s EPA notified San Antonio — with good reason — that it needs to clean up its air by lowering ozone, or smog, levels, yet the EPA has also proposed numerous rollbacks making it easier for industries to pollute and harder for San Antonio to clean its air.

12 - OPINION: La. can learn from red tide, Baton Rouge Advocate, 10/9/18

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_8507328a-cb15-11e8-964a-ab76b26fb651.html

From Louisiana to Florida to Ohio, toxic algae outbreaks are growing year by year. The states — given a pass by the federal government — are doing practically nothing to regulate the pollution that is poisoning our water. Many state governments have actively and self-destructively deregulated what protections we do have.

13 - Hurricane Michael now Category 2, continues to strengthen as it tracks toward Florida, Baton Rouge Advocate, 10/9/18

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_ac3b0116-cbbe-11e8-a66d-7f2a1cb24fb7.html

Hurricane Michael swiftly intensified into a Category 2 over warm Gulf of Mexico waters Tuesday amid fears it would strike Florida on Wednesday as a major hurricane. Mandatory evacuations were issued as beach dwellers rushed to board up homes just ahead of what could be a devastating hit.

14 - Indian American Students Named Winners of EPA’s President’s Environmental Youth Awards, India West, 10/9/18

https://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/indian-american-students-named-winners-of-epa-s-president-s/article_194bd8dc-c81a-11e8-b646-870f343369d4.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Sept. 21 announced the winners of the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators and the most recent winners of the President’s Environmental Youth Award with a few Indian Americans receiving accolades.

Climate change warning is dire in new landmark report

Updated Oct 8, 7:20 AM;
Posted Oct 7



Plastic flakes drop into a sack at a Junyoung Industrial facility in Gimpo, South Korea, in April. Bloomberg photo by Jean Chung (Jean Chung)

97

70
shares



By The Washington Post

The world stands on the brink of failure when it comes to holding global warming to moderate levels, and nations will need to take "unprecedented" actions to cut their carbon emissions over the next decade, according to a landmark report by the globe's top scientific body studying climate change.

With global emissions showing few signs of slowing and the United States - the world's second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide - rolling back a suite of Obama-era climate measures, the prospects for meeting the most ambitious goals of the 2015 Paris agreement look increasingly slim. To avoid racing past warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over preindustrial levels would require a "rapid and far reaching" transformation of human civilization at a magnitude that has simply never happened before, the group found.

What a 620 ton boulder could mean for climate change

► 0:54

Research led by Ronadh Cox charted the movement of thousands of coastal rocks, including a 620 ton boulder that moved 2.5 meters after the 2013-2014 winter storms. (Jhaan Elker/The Washington Post)



"There is no documented historic precedent" for the sweeping change to energy, transportation and other systems required to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, wrote in a report requested as part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

At the same time, however, the report is being received with hope in some quarters because it affirms that 1.5 C is still possible - if emissions stopped today, for instance, the planet would not reach that temperature. It is also likely to galvanize even stronger climate action by focusing on 1.5 C, rather than 2 degrees, as a target that the world cannot afford to miss.

Nonetheless, the transformation described in the document raises inevitable questions about its feasibility.

Most strikingly, the document says the world's annual carbon dioxide emissions, which currently amount to more than 40 billion tons per year, would have to be on an extremely steep downward path by 2030 to either hold the globe entirely below 1.5 degrees Celsius, or allow only a brief "overshoot" in temperatures.

Overall reductions in emissions in the next decade would probably need to be more than 1 billion tons per year, larger than the current emissions of all but a few of the very largest emitting countries. By 2050, the report calls for a total or near-total phaseout of the burning of coal.

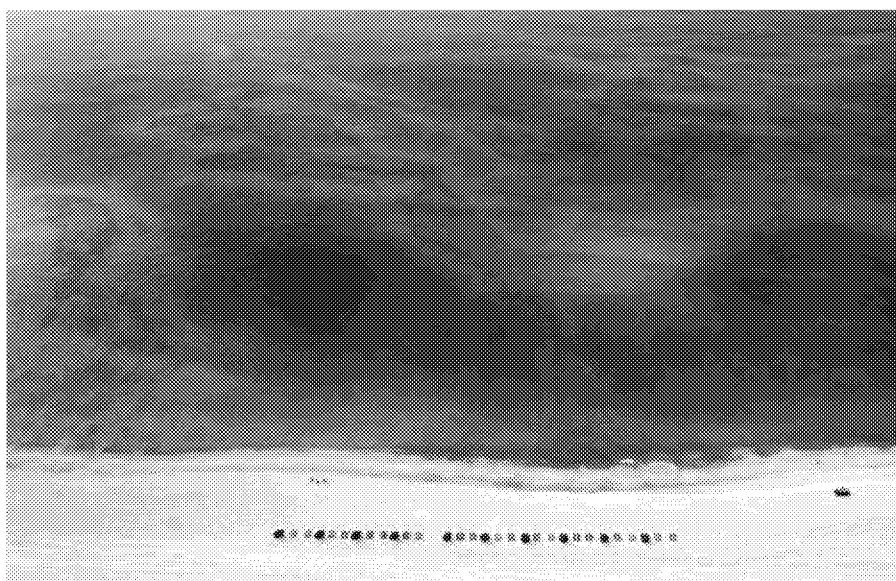


"It's like a deafening, piercing smoke alarm going off in the kitchen. We have to put out the fire," said Erik Solheim, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. He added that the need to either stop emissions entirely by 2050 or find some way of removing as much carbon dioxide from the air as we put there "means net zero must be the new global mantra."

The radical transformation also would mean that, in a world projected to have over 2 billion more people by 2050, large swaths of land used to produce food would instead have to be converted to growing trees that store carbon and crops designated for energy use.

"Such large transitions pose profound challenges for sustainable management of the various demands on land for human settlements, food, livestock feed, fibre, bioenergy, carbon storage, biodiversity and other ecosystem services," the report states.





Empty beach chairs rest on the sand as oil washes ashore in Alabama, U.S. (Photo by Kari Goodnough, Bloomberg)

The document was produced relatively rapidly for the deliberative IPCC, representing the work of nearly 100 scientists. It went through an elaborate peer review process involving tens of thousands of comments. The final 34-page "summary for policymakers" was agreed to in a marathon session by scientists and government officials in Incheon, South Korea, over the past week.

The report says the world will need to develop large-scale "negative emissions" programs to remove significant volumes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. While the basic technologies exist, they have not caught on widely, and a number of scientists have strongly questioned whether we can scale up in the brief time period available.

The bottom line, Sunday's report found, is that the world is woefully off target.

Current promises made by countries as part of the Paris climate agreement would lead to around 3 degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming by the end of the century, and the Trump administration recently released an analysis assuming about 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100 if the world takes no action.

The IPCC is considered the definitive source on the state of climate science, but it also tends to be conservative in its conclusions. That's because it is driven by a consensus-finding process, and its results are the product of not only science, but negotiation with governments over its precise language.

In Sunday's report, the group detailed the magnitude and unprecedented nature of the changes that would be required to hold warming to 1.5 Celsius, but it held back from taking a specific stand on the feasibility of meeting that goal. (An early draft had cited a "very high risk" of warming exceeding 1.5 Celsius; that language is now gone, even if the basic message is still easily inferred.)



"If you're expecting IPCC to jump up and down and wave red flags, you're going to be disappointed," said Phil Duffy, the president of Woods Hole Research Center. "They're going to do what they always do, which is to release very cautious reports in extremely dispassionate language."

Some researchers, including Duffy, are skeptical of the scenarios that the IPCC presents that hold warming to 1.5 C, particularly the reliance on negative- emissions technologies to keep the window open.

"Even if it is technically possible, without aligning the technical, political and social aspects of feasibility, it is not going to happen," added Glen Peters, research director of the Center for International Climate Research in Oslo. "To limit warming below 1.5 C, or 2 C for that matter, requires all countries and all sectors to act."

Underscoring the difficulty of interpreting what's possible, the IPCC gave two separate numbers in the report for the Earth's remaining "carbon budget," or how much carbon dioxide we can emit and still have a reasonable chance of remaining



below 1.5 C. The upshot is that we are allowed either 10 or 14 years of current emissions, and no more, if we want a two-thirds or better chance of avoiding 1.5 C.

The already limited budget would shrink further if we fail to control other greenhouse gases, such as methane, or if and when Arctic permafrost becomes a major source of new emissions.

Meanwhile, the report clearly documents that a warming of 1.5 Celsius would be very damaging, and that 2 degrees - which used to be considered a reasonable goal - could approach intolerable in parts of the world.

"1.5 degrees is the new 2 degrees," said Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, who was in Incheon, South Korea, for the finalization of the report.

Specifically, the document finds that instabilities in Antarctica and Greenland, which could usher in sea level rise measured in feet rather than inches, "could be triggered around 1.5degC to 2degC of global warming." Moreover, the total loss of



tropical coral reefs is at stake because 70 to 90 are expected to vanish at 1.5 C, the report finds. At 2 degrees, that number grows to more than 99 percent.

The report found that holding warming to 1.5 degrees could save an Alaska-size area of the Arctic from permafrost thaw, muting a feedback loop that could lead to still more global emissions. The occurrence of entirely ice-free summers in the Arctic Ocean goes from one per century to one per decade between 1.5 and 2 degrees, it found - one of many ways in which the mere half a degree has large real-world consequences.

Risks of extreme heat and weather events just rise and rise as temperatures do, meaning these would be worse across the globe the more it warms.

To avoid that, in barely more than 10 years, the world's percentage of electricity from renewables like solar and wind would have to jump from the current 24 percent to something more like 50 or 60 percent. Coal and gas plants that remain in operation would need to be equipped with technologies, collectively called carbon capture and storage (CCS), that prevent them from emitting carbon dioxide into the air and instead funnel it to be buried underground. By 2050, most coal plants would shut down.



Cars and other forms of transportation, meanwhile, would need to be shifting strongly toward being electrified, powered by these same renewable energy sources. Transportation is far behind the power sector in the shift to low-carbon fuel sources - just 4 percent of road transportation is powered by renewable fuels.

The World Coal Association challenged the report's statements on the need to jettison coal.

"While we are still reviewing the draft, the World Coal Association believes that any credible pathway to meeting the 1.5 degree scenario must focus on emissions rather than fuel," the group's interim chief executive, Katie Warrick, said in a statement. "That is why CCS is so vital."

That's an approach largely embraced by the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, which under Trump has taken numerous steps to roll back regulations on the coal industry.

In an interview with The Washington Post last week, the EPA's acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler, said the United States will "continue to remain engaged in the U.N.'s effort," despite the fact that Trump has said he intends to withdraw from the Paris climate accord as soon as legally possible.



But asked specifically about what it would take to keep the world below a dangerous level of climate change, Wheeler declined to identify a specific threshold. The agency's regulatory approach is that it would allow the coal industry "to continue to innovate on clean coal technologies, and those technologies will be exported to other countries."

Story by Chris Mooney, The Washington Post. The Washington Post's Juliet Eilperin contributed to this report.

SPONSOR CONTENT

Feel Confident With Your Finances: See How an Advisor Can Help



IPCC

Report makes case for more ambitious global climate pact

Jean Chemnick, E&E News reporter

Climatewire Tuesday, October 9, 2018



President Trump speaking with French President Emmanuel Macron last year. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff/Flickr

The goal posts for the Paris Agreement have moved.

The world's top climate scientists this weekend declared that keeping temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius — 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit — is no longer sufficient. Instead, they said, the globe must prevent warming of 1.5 C above preindustrial levels or abandon billions of people to the social and natural dangers of runaway warming.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a consortium of experts from 40 countries, authored the report, which incorporated findings from 6,000 scientific studies aimed at assessing the difference between a 1.5 C increase and a 2 C increase.

The difference would be stark. The higher level of warming would come with a damaging 4 inches of additional sea-level rise; Arctic summers without sea ice occurring once a decade instead of once a century; and damage to agriculture, forestry and other economic activities.

In short, the long-term goal enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep warming to "well below 2 degrees" isn't enough anymore.

"I do think the report does really underscore that 2 degrees is nowhere near safe from a climate impacts perspective," said Alden Meyer, strategic director at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "I think it's fair to say the report [Sunday] indicates how the understanding of climate impacts have evolved over the last 10 years or so."

Small islands and their partners wrung a concession in Paris calling on countries to pursue "efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees." They also succeeded in closing the 2015 summit outside the French capital that produced the Paris Agreement with a decision to ask the IPCC for this report. Two degrees had long been considered the "guardrail" in climate negotiations, defending against the worst impacts of warming, but islands and low-lying countries worried it wouldn't be enough to save their homelands from sea-level rise.

Sunday's report from Incheon, South Korea, bore them out, casting 1.5 C as a necessary minimum for action — rather than an aspirational target.

"History will remember this report as the moment the world's leading experts alerted decision-makers to a fast-closing window of opportunity to avoid catastrophic climate change," wrote environment ministers from 11 countries that remain members of the High Ambition Coalition to Paris, including the Marshall Islands,

Vanuatu and St. Lucia. The United States was formerly a member under President Obama, but President Trump has announced plans to walk away from the Paris deal.

Tommy Remengesau, president of Palau, said it would be good if the report made more people "angry" about the impacts fossil fuels have on vulnerable populations. But he said the science isn't new.

"If this report is what finally gets you to join our side, then welcome!" he said in a text to E&E News. "We have a big fight ahead of us and the stakes could not be higher. I hope you have a strong stomach and an even stronger backbone."

The report promised islands that keeping warming to 1.5 C would afford them "greater opportunities for adaptation including managing and restoring natural coastal ecosystems, and infrastructure reinforcement."

For high-altitude tundra and boreal forests, the tougher temperature threshold would defend against permafrost thaw, which would not only degrade the local environment but also release methane, compounding climate change.

Durwood Zaelke, president of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development in Washington, D.C., and an expert reviewer of the report, said last week he was concerned that the report wouldn't do enough to emphasize the danger of these self-reinforcing feedback loops — the loss of reflectivity from retreating sea ice is another — that could counteract efforts to stabilize the climate.

The summary for policymakers released yesterday noted that, in the long run, humans would need to take more emissions out of the atmosphere than they put in to interrupt Earth system feedbacks that would otherwise keep warming the planet, even after carbon neutrality had been achieved.

Sunday's report is intended to inform the future of the Paris deal. Far from limiting warming to 1.5 C, the collective national commitments to Paris would allow temperatures to rise almost 3 C — even if countries stuck to their pledges.

But the deal provides for re-evaluation of those commitments along a five-year cycle, starting with a review known as the Talanoa Dialogue to be held this year at climate talks in Katowice, Poland. The session encourages countries to share best practices and start thinking about the next round of pledges to be offered by 2020.

Fijian chief negotiator and climate ambassador Luke Daunivalu told E&E News last month that he expected the Talanoa, named for a Pacific island tradition of sharing experiences to build empathy, to consider the 1.5 C report.

"That's clearly one of the inputs that we have to take on board, and we're really looking to that to inform the discussions," he said, adding that he hoped it would ease ongoing discussions about guidelines for how the Paris deal will be implemented. The Paris rulebook is due to be completed at the end of this year, and progress has sometimes lagged.

The report is also timed to provide pressure ahead of a meeting next September in New York hosted by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, who has asked countries to come prepared to debut their 2030 Paris targets. The report demands that the world cut emissions 45 percent by 2030 to make 1.5 C possible, with carbon neutrality following 20 years later.

The next round of targets would need to cut global emissions nearly in half to stay in line with this report.

The European Union is considered a leader in the U.N. climate process, especially since Trump's decision to pull the United States out. The 27-nation compact is preparing to release a long-term strategy to reduce its emissions next month.

Climate change commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete and science commissioner Carlos Moedas noted European financial backing for the IPCC work and affirmed its finding that the 1.5 C limit is "necessary to avoid the worst impacts and reduce the likelihood of extreme weather events."

The compact, they said, would "work to address those challenges and expects others to follow."

But the report also came the same day a draft European 2050 strategy leaked to the media and showed that European emissions wouldn't zero out until 2070, or 20 years after the IPCC report says that emissions from the world as a whole must drop to zero.

"The strategy in its current shape is far off track to achieve 1.5°C," Wendel Trio, director of Climate Action Network Europe, said in a statement. "It is in a stark contrast with the urgency of action enshrined in the new IPCC report released today."

The U.S. State Department released a statement distancing itself from the scientific findings of the IPCC. But behind the scenes in Incheon, U.S. career officials are said to have played a constructive role, while Saudi

Arabia requested the most edits to the draft in an apparent effort to grind progress to a halt.

In the end, China has been credited for helping persuade Saudi Arabia to let the process move forward.

Twitter: [@chemnipot](#) | Email: jchemnick@eenews.net

Like what you see?
We thought you might.

Start a free trial now.

Get access to our comprehensive, daily coverage of energy and environmental politics and policy.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Advertisement

Senator Hatch orchestrated the gutting of two Utah national monuments. Now he has a third target: the San Rafael Swell.

LEARN MORE >

SUWA
NRDC ACTION FUND

The essential news for energy & environment professionals

© 1996-2016 Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC [Privacy and Data Practices Policy](#) [Site Map](#) [Contact Us](#)

EMISSIONS

Focus on 'how hard to apply the brakes,' experts say

Chelsea Harvey, E&E News reporter • Published: Tuesday, October 9, 2018



Scientists raised doubts about the prospects of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius. [Globalchange.gov](https://www.globalchange.gov)

A much-anticipated report from the world's leading authorities on climate change has reignited a debate over the usefulness of the "carbon budget."

The concept refers to how much carbon dioxide can be emitted before temperatures rise beyond a given threshold. The idea is that informing world leaders about how much carbon will cause a tipping point can help design policies that will prevent the globe from crossing that threshold. And it also helps scientists keep track of how quickly the threshold is approaching.

But some experts suggest that, although scientifically useful, the carbon budget may not actually be promoting climate action among policymakers.

They say the international community should focus less on how much carbon can still be emitted and more on setting concrete timelines for transitioning to a net-zero carbon world. This would be a shift from the current terms of the Paris Agreement, which includes a global temperature target but no specific timeline for collectively cutting emissions.

The new report, released late Sunday night by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, explores the steps that must be taken to keep the planet from warming more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, above preindustrial temperatures. A key question in the months preceding the report's release was whether the formidable target is still feasible at all. In the last few years, some experts have suggested that overshooting the 1.5 C threshold is likely inevitable.

The final report indicates that it's technically possible to meet the 1.5 C target — but nations would need to collectively bring carbon emissions down to zero within the next 30 years, requiring a staggering global effort. Whether the political will exists to make it happen remains up to the governments, authors of the report cautioned during a press conference announcing the findings.

"There are signs that mitigation is going on, but if this is to be achieved, there is an urgent need to accelerate," said Valérie Masson-Delmotte, co-chair of the IPCC's Working Group I and a co-author of the report.

In its last assessment report, released in 2014, the IPCC suggested that about a trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide could be emitted before the world tipped beyond a 2 C threshold, the major climate goal at the time the report was published. In the years since the last assessment report, numerous independent studies have attempted to refine the carbon budget for both the 1.5 and 2 C targets, some arriving at larger budgets and others at smaller ones.

To date, there's no overarching consensus on what the budget should be — which creates uncertainty about how much time is left, under current emissions trajectories, before the clock runs out on the Paris climate

targets.

The new IPCC report underscores these uncertainties. An early leaked [draft](#) of the report, published by *Climate Home News* in February, reported that emissions should be limited to 580 billion tons of carbon dioxide for only a 50 percent chance of meeting the 1.5 C goal. And an even smaller carbon budget, which would allow a 66 percent chance of hitting the target, was declared likely out of reach already.

The final version includes a revised, slightly larger carbon budget calculated using updated methods, according to authors of the report. Depending on the way that global average temperatures are measured, the carbon budget could be as small as 580 billion tons for a 50 percent chance of success, or as large as 770 billion tons.

A two-thirds shot of success would call for a carbon budget of 420 billion tons on the low end or 570 billion tons on the high end. That's about 10 to 14 years left at current emissions levels.

It's a higher budget, though, than would be expected based on the methods used in the previous IPCC assessment report — akin to resetting the doomsday clock to "five minutes to midnight," according to Oliver Geden, a climate researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

But these new values aren't watertight, either. The report points out that carbon budgets are subject to high levels of uncertainty, related to gaps in the scientific understanding of climate system feedbacks and responses.

All in all, the carbon budget is a tricky concept, and one that even scientists are still working to refine. Geden suggests that the updated carbon budget is likely to inspire "a huge debate" among scientists about the methods used to calculate it. It's an issue that he says will need to be addressed again in the next IPCC assessment report, which is a work in progress.

And as a tool for policymakers, Geden and other experts have suggested that the carbon budget may not be especially useful — it is confusing, is subject to constant revision and may give world leaders a false sense of security about how much time they have left to continue emitting carbon dioxide, they've noted ([Climatewire](#), May 22).

As a result, some experts have begun to advocate for a different kind of global target — not just a temperature goal, but a concrete timeline to reach net-zero carbon emissions, regardless of the ongoing debates about the exact carbon budget.

The new IPCC report generally takes this approach. While it includes a discussion of the carbon budget, it maintains that the 1.5 C target requires a shift to net-zero emissions by 2050, no matter what. This timeline should be strict enough to work with any range of carbon budgets thought to be consistent with the 1.5 C goal.

When asked about the revised carbon budget, co-author Masson-Delmotte said that "if you would like to stabilize global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the key message is that net CO₂ emissions must reach zero by 2050, and that's the most important finding of the report."

Glen Peters, research director at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research in Norway, added that the updated carbon budget is "largely of academic interest."

"What really matters is the pathways, how fast do emissions need to go down, when do they get to zero, and how much negative emissions do we need," he said in an email to E&E News. "Those pathways, at least in the special report, do not change with the updated carbon budget, as the calculations were done before the carbon budget was revised."

That said, even a net-zero target carries its own challenges and decisions. The new report notes that reaching net zero by 2050 will likely require a certain amount of "negative emissions" — using vegetation or other forms of technology to suck carbon dioxide back out of the atmosphere. Exactly how much negative emission will be required depends on how quickly world leaders can cut their carbon output in the coming years. That's a concern, because some of the technologies proposed for negative emissions have yet to be proved on a large scale.

Still, a net-zero target gives policymakers a timeline for specific climate action beyond simply setting a temperature goal or adopting a carbon budget. And the idea may become increasingly relevant as world leaders prepare to meet in Poland this December, where they will finalize the Paris Agreement's rulebook — a set of guidelines for how individual nations should outline their climate action plans and report their progress.

According to Geden, the new report will likely inspire debate on new long-term targets. It would also be useful for policymakers to start thinking about short-term targets, as well, he added, since the report calls for significant emissions reductions by 2030, on the way to net zero by 2050.

"Every industrialized country and every emerging economy has to strengthen midterm climate targets considerably," he noted.

Whether the concept of a net-zero target will reappear in the IPCC's next assessment report — or in the international discussions in Poland this December — remains to be seen. But it's an idea that experts say should stay on the burner.

"We want to stop going over the cliff by applying the brakes now," Peters told E&E News. "It is more interesting to know how hard to apply the brakes as opposed to how long it takes to hit the cliff at the current speed."

Twitter: [@chelseacharvey](#) | Email: charvey@eenews.net

ENVIRONMENT

OCTOBER 5, 2018 / 5:18 AM / 4 DAYS AGO

EPA's new carbon plan won't slow coal unit shutdowns: utilities

Nichola Groom, Timothy Gardner, Scott DiSavino



LOS ANGELES/WASHINGTON/NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Trump administration's replacement of Obama-era carbon regulations will not save U.S. coal-fired power plants from shutdown, according to a Reuters survey of utilities, spelling bad news for Trump's efforts to revive the ailing coal industry.

The Environmental Protection Agency in August proposed replacing the Clean Power Plan, a signature climate change policy of the Obama administration aimed at curbing carbon emissions from the power industry. Instead, a weaker plan called the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, or ACE, would let states write their own rules.

It marks the Trump administration's most aggressive effort to help coal companies stung by falling demand from power plants.

A Reuters survey of 44 utilities that have announced plans to shutter coal units in coming years showed none of them currently expects the new EPA proposal will affect the timing of those retirements. The survey showed 24 operators believe the proposal will have no impact, four believe it is too early to say if it will have an impact, seven declined to comment, and the rest did not respond.

Together, the 35 operators that responded account for more than three-quarters of the nearly 150 coal-fired units scheduled for retirement in the United States in the coming decade.

The responses suggest that a years-long shift away from coal – driven primarily by competition from cheap and abundant natural gas, the rise of renewable energy sources and anti-pollution rules – will likely continue on the basis of economics and not regulation.

U.S. coal-fired power generation has fallen more than 40 percent since a peak in 2007, while natural gas-fired generation soared by about the same amount, according to the Energy Information Administration. The changes triggered mass layoffs and bankruptcies in America's coal sector.

Utilities' demand for U.S. coal is projected to fall further this year, by around 2.5 percent to 648.2 million short tons, the lowest in 35 years, according to the EIA.

Trump has vowed to help the coal industry by rolling back environmental regulation. But the EPA said its proposal was not specifically intended to bail out the coal industry.

“Unlike the last administration, we are not using this authority to either advantage or disadvantage particular types of technologies,” the EPA said in an emailed statement provided by spokesman Michael Abboud.

The National Mining Association, which represents the U.S. coal industry, said it hoped the rule would help the coal sector, arguing that premature coal plant retirements could raise consumer costs by tightening electricity markets.

“While I can't predict what plant owners will do, one would hope that they would consider the impact of any decision on the average American,” said NMA spokeswoman Ashley Burke.

DRIVEN BY ECONOMICS

Shortly after the EPA unveiled its proposal, U.S. power plant operator NiSource Inc announced in September that it may accelerate the retirement of its coal plants instead of delaying them.

“Technology and market changes continue to transform the energy industry, opening more competitive options and it’s the primary driver of the changes being considered for our system,” said Violet Sistovaris, president of NiSource’s NIPSCO division.

Other utilities pushing ahead with retirements cited customer preferences for cleaner fuel sources as well as state climate policies and other federal regulations.

Oklahoma utility OGE, for instance, is converting two units at its Muskogee plant in eastern Oklahoma to natural gas to comply with the federal Regional Haze Rule by 2019.

“We have a legal deadline to comply with Regional Haze which leaves us no time to do anything than move forward with the conversion,” said spokesman Brian Alford.

NRG, one of the largest U.S. power companies, said customer demand was a driver.

“The energy industry is reducing its carbon footprint based on economics and customer demand. NRG is part of this momentum,” said spokesman David Knox.

FirstEnergy Solutions [FE.UL], which has lobbied the Trump administration to take emergency measures to subsidize coal plants, did not comment on the ACE plan. But the company confirmed it has told a regional grid operator it still plans to shut 12 units at three plants in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania from 2019 to 2022.

Three utilities – AEP, OPD and PPL – were less certain about the impact of ACE, noting that the proposal gives states regulatory power. If implemented, states would get three years to submit their plans to the EPA, which has said it expects the rule to be finalized early next year.

Duke Energy, which boasts 7 million electricity customers in six states, agreed that the states are a wild card, but said the timeline is too long for it to change course now.

“Based on what we know right now, we do not have any plants whose future would be affected by the adoption of the ACE rule,” said spokeswoman Shannon Brushe.

Editing by Richard Valdmanis, Dan Grebler and David Gregorio



[Latest stories](#) [Obits](#) [Most commented](#) [Newsletters](#) [Traffic](#) [Weather](#) [Puzzles/games](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

In state, drinking water in tests below EPA limit for 14 chemicals

by Emily Walkenhorst | October 7, 2018 at 4:27 a.m.

1 COMMENT

0

As federal regulators weigh the possibility of regulating a harmful set of chemicals found in millions of Americans' drinking water, no testing conducted in Arkansas appears to show the chemicals' presence in the state's drinking water.

Most people have been exposed to the chemicals, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says.

Daily Email Newsletters

Sign up to receive top headlines and breaking news alerts in your inbox.

Sign Up

Testing for the chemicals in Arkansas' drinking water took place at the state's largest utilities from 2013-15 and was measured if detected above a level established by the EPA. It was not detected at that level at any of the state's utilities, but critics have said the level the EPA used was not low enough to detect concentrations of the chemicals that remain harmful.

The 14 chemicals fall under the category of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are the most-studied PFAS, and research shows they can cause "reproductive and development, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals," according to the EPA. Both have caused tumors in animals.

PFAS don't break down in the environment or in a person's body, so they remain there and build up with the addition of more PFAS. Certain filtration systems can remove them from tap water.

Manufacturers have phased out use of perfluorooctanoic and perfluorooctanesulfonic acids, according to the EPA. Perfluorooctanoic acid has been replaced by a category of chemicals known as GenX chemicals, according to the agency.

The chemicals have drawn comparisons to DDT, a pesticide that was heralded in the 1940s for its efficiency and was used worldwide before it was ultimately banned in 1972 because of adverse health effects.

People can be exposed to PFAS chemicals via some food packaging, food grown with PFAS-contaminated soil or water, certain commercial household products, certain industrial facilities, other living things or drinking water, according to the EPA's website.

From 2013-15, utilities with 10,000 or more customers were required under federal rules to test for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, perfluorooctanoic acid and 12 more PFAS chemicals. During that time, none of the Arkansas utilities pulled samples that had detectable levels of the chemicals, according to EPA data.

But, across the country, dozens of utilities serving millions of customers did. Some have levels hundreds of times higher than recommended.

Arkansas' drinking water sources appear to be far away from potential industrial sources of pollution, said Jeff Stone, director of the Arkansas Department of Health's engineering section.

Major drinking water sources, such as Lake Fort Smith or Beaver Lake, are surface water sources in forested areas. "Nothing can be better than a lake surrounded by forestland," Stone said. "That's our optimal situation."

Industry is also far enough from the watersheds of Central Arkansas Water's two water sources, Lake Maumelle and Lake Winona.

"Because we own our lakes, and we protect them, and we don't have that type of development around our water sources, we really don't have an issue with those chemicals," said Doug Shackelford, a spokesman for the utility.

"It would be really difficult for them to find their way into our lake," he said.

ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW

More related headlines

EPA takes chief of children's health unit off the job

ADVERTISEMENT

The sampling was required under the third round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. The rule requires testing for dozens of chemicals over a three-year period, followed by two years of analysis of the results and decisions on whether to move forward with regulating any of the "contaminant candidates."

After trying to stop the Department of Health and Human Services from releasing a report recommending even lower levels of PFAS concentrations in drinking water, the EPA has traveled to states with high PFAS levels and intends to spend the fall working on a PFAS management plan.

The EPA's detection level for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid was 0.04 micrograms per liter, and for perfluorooctanoic acid it was 0.02 micrograms per liter (20 parts per trillion).

In several states, the health limit is much lower than the detection level.

The Department of Health and Human Services recommended in a draft toxicological profile released in June that the health advisory level be 0.007 micrograms per liter (7 parts per trillion) for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and 0.011 micrograms per liter (11 parts per trillion) for perfluorooctanoic acid. Those are several times lower than the EPA's level of 0.070 micrograms per liter.

The draft profile also said research suggests links between perfluorooctanoic acid and pregnancy-induced hypertension/pre-eclampsia, liver damage, higher cholesterol, higher risk for thyroid disease, decreased antibody response to vaccines, increased risk of asthma, increased risk of fertility issues and decreases in birth weight. Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid was associated with all of those except the asthma risk.

The draft profile notes 2017 findings from the International Agency for Research on Cancer that perfluorooctanoic acid is possibly carcinogenic.

In a report last year, one of the labs that assisted the EPA reviewed its data using a method of testing that allowed them to drop the detection level to 0.005 micrograms per liter (5 parts per trillion). The lab, Eurofins Eaton Analytical, found that as many as 28 percent of the public drinking water systems it

tested had PFAS levels above 0.005 micrograms per liter. None of those were in Arkansas, but the company tested fewer than 40 percent of samples taken during the monitoring period.

Assessments of safe levels of exposure range from 0.001 micrograms per liter to the EPA's health advisory levels of 0.070 micrograms per liter. Vermont established a health advisory level for perfluorooctanoic acid of 0.020 micrograms per liter, according to Eaton. Three states -- New York, New Hampshire and New Jersey -- recommend that labs set detection levels for perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid at 0.002, 0.005 and 0.010 micrograms per liter, respectively.

Under the monitoring, numerous utilities in Arkansas tested above detection levels for 10 of the 116 chemicals in the rule's third round: strontium, chromium-6, vanadium, chlorate, 1,4-dioxane, molybdenum, manganese, 4-androstene-3,17-dione, n-propylbenzene and chloromethane.

Of those, the EPA has issued a health advisory for manganese, setting a "health reference level" of 0.3 milligrams per liter. Arkansas utilities had voluminous samples that tested above detection level (0.001 milligrams per liter), but no samples that exceeded the health reference level. The highest sample was 0.17 milligrams per liter.

State Desk on 10/07/2018

Print Headline: In state, drinking water in tests below EPA limit for 14 chemicals

Topics

[Environmental Protection Agency](#), [Arkansas](#), [Department of Health and Human Services](#), [lake Winona](#), [lake Maumelle](#), [Beaver lake](#), [lake Fort Smith](#), [Arkansas Water](#), [Doug Shackelford](#), [State Desk](#), [Arkansas Department of Health](#)

Related Articles

EPA takes chief of children's health unit off the job

Sponsor Content

Solar, wind helping to cut CO2 emissions, government says

By L.M. Sixel Updated 4:43 am CDT, Monday, October 8, 2018



The nation is getting more of its power from renewable sources like solar energy.

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions decreased nearly 1 percent last year as the nation shifted further away from coal-fired power generation and more toward cleaner sources of electricity, including natural gas and renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

Power producers cut their emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and increases worldwide temperatures, for the seventh time in the past 10 years, according to the Energy Department.

Last year alone, U.S. ene x

[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

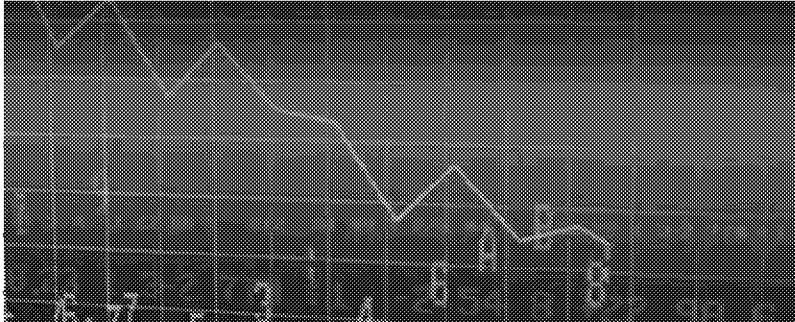
[Interest Based Ads](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Contact Us](#)



gross domestic product.

with oil and gas

carbon electricity generation last

the primary source of

1997, hydropower produced

on but by last year, it was

RELATED: New solar panel facility scheduled for Fort Bend County

POLITICO

Morning Agriculture*A daily briefing on agriculture and food policy* **1e Morning Agriculture Newsletter**

By signing up you agree to receive email newsletters or alerts from POLITICO. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Farm bill tensions simmer

By HELENA BOTTEMILLER EVICH (HBottemiller@politico.com; @hbottemiller) 10/05/2018 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Ryan McCrimmon and Catherine Boudreau

PROGRAMMING NOTE: Morning Agriculture will not publish on Monday, Oct. 8. Our next Morning Agriculture newsletter will publish on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

FARM BILL TENSIONS SIMMER: House and Senate agriculture leaders emerged from an hourlong meeting in the basement of the Capitol on Thursday trying to send a signal of unity: The four lawmakers posed for a photo with locked arms. Behind the scenes, however, talks have been slow and tense.

The expectation had long been that the House's insistence on implementing new work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would sink the whole bill, at least politically. But deep differences between the two chambers on farm subsidies and other spending priorities have stymied progress as lawmakers have met over the past several weeks — so much so that SNAP has barely been a focus, report yours truly and Catherine Boudreau this morning.

The Conaway-Stabenow dynamic: Amid the slow rolling talks, a public standoff has emerged between House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway and Senate Agriculture ranking member Debbie Stabenow — even as Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts has raised similar objections to House proposals during closed-door meetings. The Conaway-Stabenow friction has been driven by a combination of personality, policy and party politics.

Title I woes: At the heart of the current impasse is the bill's commodity title, and how the farm subsidy pie will be divvied up among regions of the country. Stabenow and Roberts oppose House provisions that the CBO projected would send more cash to farmers in the Southern Plains, including more than \$500 million to cotton growers, a top constituency in Conaway's West Texas district.

Conaway isn't thrilled about how the Senate bill would eliminate a \$2 billion perk for rural utilities that borrow from the federal government, a tradeoff that opened up funding for a number of Stabenow's priorities, including initiatives promoting renewable energy development and local and regional food, research funding for urban and indoor farming, and assistance for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Disputes between Conaway and Stabenow over commodity policy have taken up much of the oxygen in talks among the so called Big Four, said House Agriculture ranking member Collin Peterson.

"[Conaway] and Stabenow are fighting over this stuff, and Pat and I just sit and look at each other and roll our eyes," the Minnesota Democrat told POLITICO last week.

Pros can read the full story on the state of farm bill negotiations from yours truly and Catherine here.

HAPPY FRIDAY, OCT. 5! Welcome to Morning Ag, where your host thinks this new grocery store Brad Paisley is launching in Nashville to help people in need sounds pretty neat. Send your tips and news to hbottemiller@politico.com and [@hbottemiller](https://twitter.com/hbottemiller). And follow the whole team: [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag).

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SAYS A RED WAVE IS COMING ON ELECTION DAY. Is he right or will the tide turn blue? Compete against the nation's top political minds in the POLITICO Playbook Election Challenge, by correctly picking the winning candidates in some of the most competitive House, Senate and gubernatorial races in the country! Win awesome prizes and eternal bragging rights. Sign up today! Visit politico.com/playbookelectionchallenge to play.

PERDUE CALLS FOR EMBRACING CELL-CULTURED MEAT TECH: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue on Thursday suggested that USDA and FDA are likely to have joint jurisdiction over the burgeoning cell-cultured meat sector — perhaps the clearest signal yet of where this ongoing regulatory turf battle is headed — but he also made some interesting comments about his views on the technology.

"The main thing is we don't want this new technology to feel like they've got to go offshore or outside the United States to get a fair regulatory protocol," Perdue told reporters at a North American Meat Institute event.

Of note: The comment is likely to be particularly interesting to the startups in this space, which have worried that USDA is likely to put its thumb on the scales against cell-based meat technology at the behest of parts of the meat industry that hate the very idea of the sector.

Embrace tech: Perdue shared his thoughts about the technology earlier this week as well in an interview with Organic Insider. The secretary was asked about organic farmers being upset about competing with large hydroponic production that can be labeled as organic, even though it doesn't use soil. In his response, Perdue brought up the meat industry and cell-based technology.

"It shouldn't be the competitive. Just like the meat industry," he said. "We've got new technology with stem cell protein growth there. While some people may be anxious about taking their markets, shouldn't we in the United States be about how we can grow and feed people more efficiently and more effectively ... these techniques need to be embraced, not kept out of."

PERDUE: TARIFFS 'DAMPENING' NAFTA 2.0 GAINS: Perdue has hailed the new North American trade pact as a big win for U.S. agriculture. Like other ag groups, however, he thinks the negative impact of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. producers is stepping all over the good NAFTA news.

"We do know that it has some dampening effect on the benefits for agriculture in this agreement, so we look forward to that being resolved very soon," Perdue said of the duties. Major trading partners like China, Canada and Mexico have stuck tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods in retaliation for President Donald Trump's duties on steel and aluminum. Liz Crampton has more from Perdue here.

U.S. trade officials are talking about a tariff resolution with Canada and Mexico separately from discussions related to the North American trade pact, which leaders intend to sign late next month.

Discussions with China remain stalled. That's because the Trump administration's priorities keep shifting, says Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai. Cui told NPR that the U.S. has made unreasonable demands of China and hasn't demonstrated enough good will in the talks. Here's more from Pro Trade's Megan Casella.

View from Hong Kong: Our friends at the South China Morning Post report that the Chinese government has stayed mum on the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal. Trump sees the three-way pact — which includes provisions aimed squarely at China — as a show of U.S. strength and a source of leverage in negotiations with Beijing. State media outlets in China have been silent on the trade deal or avoided analyzing its potential to affect the U.S.-China talks.

ROW CROPS:

— **GMO labeling rule coming soon:** USDA is planning to release its final rule on labeling genetically engineered ingredients later this year after missing a July 29 deadline set by Congress. "We will have a rule out by the end of the year," Perdue said during his interview with Organic Insider.

— **Grassley defends applying for trade aid:** Sen. Chuck Grassley, who owns a 750-acre farm in Iowa, is defending his decision to apply for aid as part of the Trump administration's trade relief package for farmers hurt by tariffs. Sen. Jon Tester of Montana has also applied. More from Roll Call here.

— **Court to hear organic livestock challenge:** The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Thursday agreed to hear the Organic Trade Association's case against USDA over the agency's decision to withdraw organic livestock standards. OTA praised the decision late Thursday: "We are delighted the court has agreed to hold a hearing despite the USDA's objections," said Laura Batcha, CEO and executive director of OTA.

— **Brussels cracking down on trans fats:** The European Commission laid out a draft proposal to limit the amount of trans fats in foods to 2 percent of the total fat content, a move that will also affect U.S.-based international producers. The new cap would kick in in April 2021. Some multinational companies like Mars and Nestlé have backed the 2 percent cap on trans fats, POLITICO Europe's Emma Livingstone reports.

— **DOD ag pest research under fire:** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, known as DARPA, which is part of the Defense Department, has sparked criticism for its \$45 million Insect Allies research program, which researches how to "transform agricultural pests into vectors that can transfer protective genes into plants within one growing season," The New York Times reports.

— **Butter groups claim improper labeling by non-dairy substitutes:** The American Butter Institute wants the FDA to crack down on producers of plant-based substitutes referring to their goods as "butter" — even if they're already labeled vegan, plant-based or dairy-free. The agency is currently rethinking what foods should be allowed to be called "milk," "yogurt," "cheese" and other traditional dairy names. Ryan McCrimmon has more here.

— **Indoor farms turn to robots:** Startups looking to grow produce indoors are turning to robots for their labor. More from The Associated Press here.

— **6.5 million pounds of beef recalled after salmonella scare:** Arizona meat processor JBS Tolleson Inc. recalled 6.5 million pounds of raw beef products that might be contaminated with salmonella, after USDA found 57 cases of the illness across 16 states. It's the latest bad news for the Brazil-based parent company JBS — the world's largest beef and pork processor — which was caught in a major corruption and bribery scandal. Ryan has the details.

— **Revolving door:** Alan Bjerga, a longtime agriculture reporter at Bloomberg, is joining National Milk Producer Federation to serve as senior vice president of communications. Chris Galen, NMPF's longtime head of communications, is moving to a new role as senior vice president of member services and strategic initiatives.

THAT'S ALL FOR MA! See you again on Monday. In the meantime, drop your host and the rest of the team a line: rmccrimmon@politico.com and [@ryanmccrimmon](https://twitter.com/ryanmccrimmon); cboudreau@politico.com and [@ceboudreau](https://twitter.com/ceboudreau); hbottemiller@politico.com and [@hbottemiller](https://twitter.com/hbottemiller); lcrampton@politico.com and [@liz_crampton](https://twitter.com/liz_crampton); srodriguez@politico.com and [@sabrod123](https://twitter.com/sabrod123); jlauinger@politico.com and [@jmlauinger](https://twitter.com/jmlauinger); and pjoshi@politico.com and [@pjoshiny](https://twitter.com/pjoshiny). You can also follow [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro) and [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag) on Twitter.

[About Us](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Careers](#)

[Credit Card Payments](#)

[Digital Edition](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Headlines](#)

[Photos](#)

[POWERJobs](#)

[Press](#)

[Print Subscriptions](#)

[RSS](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

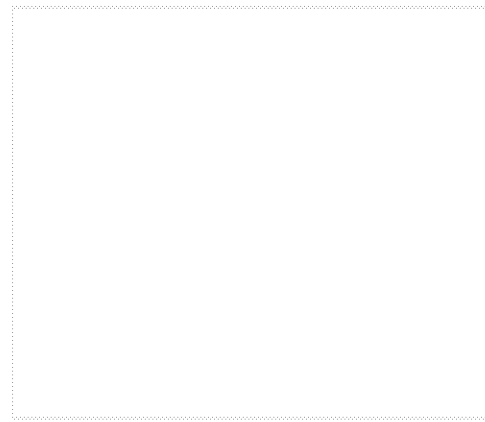
TCEQ continues efforts to resolve Craft-Turney water emergency

Customers in the expanded area can use water to flush their toilets but not for any other purposes.

The Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. let the TCEQ about a backflow incident affecting a small part of the system, 11 connections total on Wednesday.

According to the TCEQ, they suspect a fungicide got into the water supply.

The water utility has indicated that this part of the system has been isolated from the distribution system.



TCEQ said, "the do not use order was initially issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system but was expanded to customers in the general vicinity of these connections as a precaution."

The utility also noted that their customers in the expanded area can use water to flush their toilets but for any other purposes.

Since the order was issued, the TCEQ has been in continuous contact with the water utility's representatives to make sure the public is aware of the situation and has initiated several measures, including sampling to determine the extent of potential impact in the water system.

The TCEQ is working with the water supply corporation, and other state partners and EPA Region 6. The system is being continuously flushed to remove any potential contaminants.

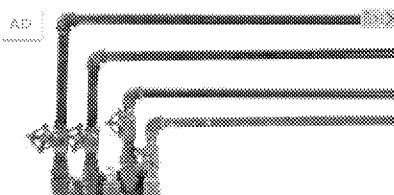
TCEQ investigators and engineers are coordinating with the water supply corporation on the ground to address this issue. An investigation into the issue has been opened to find out the cause and source.

The do not use order will remain in place until the water system has been adequately flushed and samples indicate that the water is safe to use.

Currently, authorities do not know how long their efforts will take, but the health and safety of the water supply corporation's customers is TCEQ's priority.

TCEQ gave twenty-eight pallets of water to the utility on Thursday for customers impacted by the incident. Those needing water can find it at the Craft-Turney office at 505 Loop 456 in Jacksonville.

A local church, the First United Methodist Church-Jacksonville at 1031 TX-456 Loop, has opened its facilities to those affected by the do not use water notice for bathing and washing dishes between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Standardize your pipe marking with this 100% free downloadable guide.

GRAPHIC PRODUCTS®

The TCEQ has also worked with the Department of State Health Services, and their staff are available to take calls regarding health concerns.

Dr. Sharon Huff in DSHS's Tyler office can be contacted at 903-595-3589 during the work week. Impacted residents may also call the Texas Poison Center Network at 1-800-222-1222.

Impacted residents may also contact the Texas Poison Center Network at 1-800-222-1222 (24 hours per day).

Locals can also call TCEQ's Tyler office at 903-535-5100 if they have any questions related to this incident.

© 2018 KYTX

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Te

Play this for 1 minute and see why everyone is addicted

Vikings: Free Online Game

Born Before 1985? District Of Columbia May Pay Off Your Mortgage (Only if You Claim It)

HARP Refi Quote

Susan Boyle is So Skinny Now and Looks Gorgeous

MedicalMatters

Plastic Surgeon Reveals: "You Can Fill In Wrinkles At Home" (Here's How)

Beverly Hills MD

Luxury Assisted Living Near Washington Has Seniors Packing Up Suitcases

Assisted Living | Search Ads

Two Banks That Pay 10x the Interest On Your Savings

MyFinance Bank Referrals

Theres One WD-40 Trick You Need To Know

Definition

Top U.S. Vet Reveals: The Most Dangerous Thing You're Giving Your Dog

Dr. Marty

Considering an SUV? These Are the 10 Most Fuel Efficient

Kelley Blue Book

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/crime_police/article_b10cd6bc-cbbc-11e8-8ff6-fbebe0641078.html

Report: Fire under control at Plaquemine chemical plant; road closed nearby

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT OCT 9, 2018 - 7:05 AM



The Advocate file photo

Advocate Staff

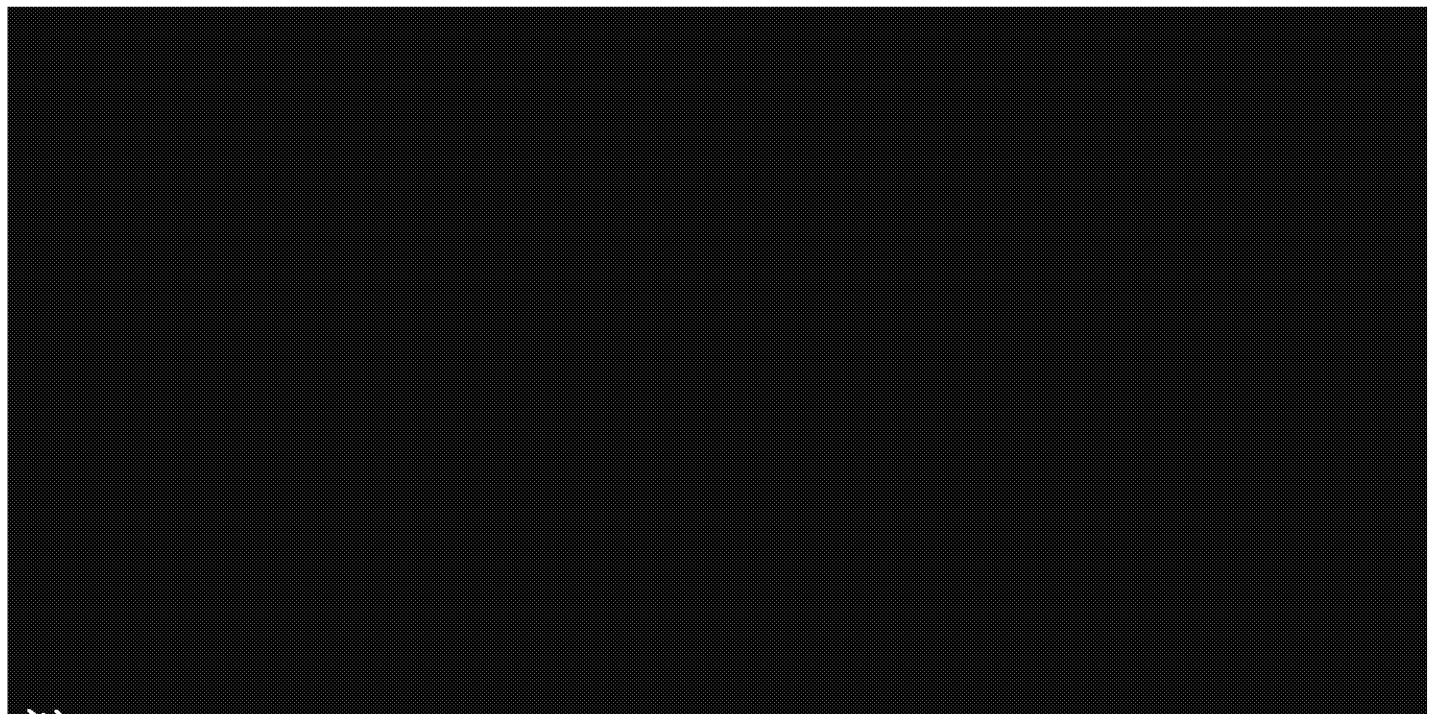
A fire was under control at Westlake Chemical in Plaquemine and a nearby road had been closed as a precaution, according to a report from WBRZ.

Story Continued Below

The fire was reported just after 4 a.m. at the plant. The fire occurred within a vinyl chloride monomer unit, according to the report, which was shut down after the fire was isolated within it.

Evergreen Road was shut down Tuesday morning. No injuries were reported.

Check back for updates.



Rihanna Gives Her Younger Self Advice

Sponsored by Connatix

SPONSORED CONTENT ON THE ADVOCATE

Living with ulcerative colitis? They've been there.

Trump's EPA sending mixed signals to S.A.

By Adelita G. Cantu, For the Express-News Published 12:00 am CDT, Sunday, October 7, 2018



The downtown San Antonio skyline looks hazy from Eisenhower Park on Oct. 2, 2016, the day of a late-season spike in ozone levels. The EPA has said San Antonio is not in attainment on ozone.

So far this year, at least 13 days were considered unsafe for breathing outside.

President Donald Trump's EPA notified San Antonio — with good reason — that it needs to clean up its air by lowering ozone, or smog, levels, yet the EPA has also proposed numerous rollbacks making it easier for industries to pollute and harder for San Antonio to clean its air.

Ground-level ozone forms when nitrogen oxide from cars and trucks, cement kilns, coal plants, and oil and gas activities combine with volatile organic compounds (benzene and butadiene from gas stations, cars, oil and gas activities, paint fumes and dry cleaning chemicals) in the sunlight.

Recommended Video



Effects of ground-level ozone are worst on hot summer days. High levels are hazardous and irritating to the lungs and particularly to those with asthma or other lung conditions, and can lead to attacks and premature death.

, and the EPA finally did the right thing with the ozone standard.

ss it.

to its mess, it is proposing rules that will contribute to dirty skies and ozone pollution.

In August, the EPA announced its plan to rollback Obama-era fuel efficiency standards for new cars and trucks. The proposed rollback would freeze required improvements on gas mileage and emissions for six years, and will result in increased ozone pollution and health costs in Bexar County.

Then, the EPA announced its Clean Power Plan replacement, the Affordable Clean Energy Rule. The CPP was designed to require utilities to put themselves on a cleaner path. It would have lowered carbon dioxide levels by 32 percent over 12 years, along with other pollutants like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. In contrast, the new rule — using the EPA's own calculations — would lead to 1,400 additional premature deaths and 48,000 new cases of asthma each year nationwide.

If that weren't enough, the EPA announced a regional haze plan that is supposed to cut sulfur pollution from impacting national parks but instead could keep old Texas coal plants polluting.

Haze is the grungy air caused when coal pollution travels long distances and combines with other air pollution, harming views in places such as Big Bend National Park and the Guadalupe Mountains.

The Clean Air Act requires states, or the EPA, to put together a haze plan. The previous proposed rule for Texas would have significantly reduced sulfur pollution from our oldest, dirtiest coal plants, but the Trump administration ignored these requirements and proposed a plan that could actually increase pollution. The plan would potentially create a market that would allow coal plants slated for retirement, such as CPS Energy's Deely coal plant, to sell "sulfur pollution credits" to other outdated Texas coal plants, allowing those dirty plants to pollute even more.

Finally, the EPA recently announced that the rule to control methane pollution from new oil and gas drilling activities would be replaced by a rule that would loosen the already modest requirements to control pollution from the oil and gas operations.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments conducted several studies showing that increased oil and gas activity nearby increases the likelihood of ozone formation within Bexar County, especially if producers don't check for leaks.

So, while Trump's EPA is finally ordering San Antonio to clean the air we breathe, the cruel — and dangerous — irony is the onslaught of environmental protection rollbacks intended to benefit the fossil fuel industry at the expense of our health and environment.

Fortunately, none of the four proposed rules are final, and we must tell Trump's EPA and our city leaders that these proposals make it very difficult to protect public health and meet clean air standards.

Adelita G. Cantu, Ph.D., RN, is with the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments.

© 2018 Hearst Communications, Inc.

HEARST

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_8507328a-cb15-11e8-964a-ab76b26fb651.html

Guest column: La. can learn from red tide

Matt Rota **OCT 8, 2018 - 6:00 PM**

There is an environmental crisis in Florida right now. The red tide has spread to the Atlantic coast, and it's affecting some of the most popular beaches near Miami.

The photos of dead manatees and endangered sea turtles killed by red tide are shocking and heartbreaking. What is even more frustrating is that these deaths are largely preventable. Both Florida and the federal government could have stepped in years ago to regulate nitrogen and phosphorus pollution but chose to sit on their hands.

The count: the size of the 'dead zone' along the Gulf Coast

Story Continued Below

Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution flowing from agricultural land, septic tanks, and other human-caused sources are fueling toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and red tide outbreaks in the interior and coastal waters of the Sunshine State. More than one hundred manatees, a dozen dolphins, thousands of fish, 300 sea turtles and even whale sharks have been killed by toxic algae and bacteria this year. And those are just the deaths that have been reported.

So what does this have to do with Louisiana and the rest of the nation? The Environmental Protection Agency says that nitrogen and phosphorus pollution is one of America's most widespread, costly, and challenging environmental problems.

This same pollution also causes the annual Dead Zone off Louisiana's coast that decimates aquatic life and harms our fishing communities. The Dead Zone has more than doubled in size since 1985, thanks to our collective failure to regulate nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. Last summer, it was the size of New Jersey.

Issues with nitrogen and phosphorus pollution aren't endemic to the Gulf of Mexico. Lake Erie is still suffering from toxic algae outbreaks that shut down Toledo's drinking water supply in 2014. Harmful algae outbreaks in Chesapeake Bay kill marine life year after year and are occurring more frequently.

There has been a movement in the Mississippi River basin for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution to be curtailed at the federal level for a decade now. Several groups petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency in 2008 to regulate runoff under the Clean Water Act.

By 2010, EPA appeared to be on track to develop nitrogen and phosphorus pollution rules in Florida. But anti-government forces, led by the newly empowered Tea Party, pressured EPA to back off. In 2012, Florida — with EPA approval — developed nitrogen and phosphorus pollution limits that were decidedly less protective.

It became clear that asking the EPA politely wasn't working, so environmental groups were forced to go to court. In 2012, we joined partners along the Mississippi River, including the Midwest where nitrogen and phosphorus pollution originates on industrial farms, to sue the Obama administration and force the EPA to regulate nitrogen and phosphorus pollution runoff under the Clean Water Act.

From Louisiana to Florida to Ohio, toxic algae outbreaks are growing year by year. The states — given a pass by the federal government — are doing practically nothing to regulate the pollution that is poisoning our water. Many state governments have actively and self-destructively deregulated what protections we do have. In 2012, Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed the repeal of a law that required inspections of septic tanks to make sure they weren't polluting Florida's waterways.

We continue to hear that voluntary actions can fix the problem. It's clearly not working. Florida's red tide and blue-green algae outbreaks show it's only getting worse. Deregulation is killing our waterways, and we are now feeling the consequences of kicking the can down the road.

Because state governments have proved themselves to be incapable of tackling this problem, it's time for a renewed national effort to regulate nitrogen and phosphorus pollution at the federal level. It's time for EPA to do its job and enforce the Clean Water Act. If our governments don't go beyond asking nicely for voluntary pollution prevention, they will continue to put our fisheries, wildlife and health at risk.

Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution isn't just a Florida problem. It is an ongoing national crisis. Florida's toxic algae outbreak this summer is simply the most recent of a long list of man-made catastrophes related to our failure to prevent toxic algae outbreaks. If we don't take action, it won't be the last.

Matt Rota is senior policy director for Gulf Restoration Network, an environmental nonprofit based in New Orleans that has been advocating for federal management by the EPA of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution for over a decade.

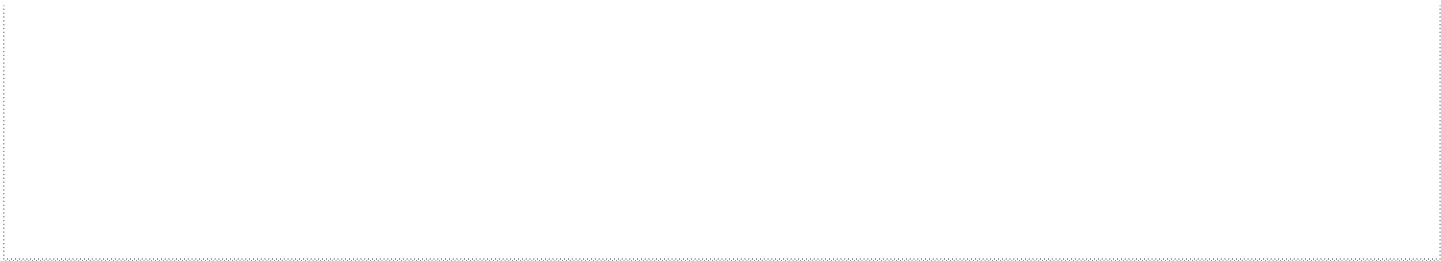


SPONSORED CONTENT ON THE ADVOCATE

Mike Golic's Top 2 Caregiving Tips

BY AARP

See how the famed radio host prepares to take on today.



You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

These SUVs Are The Cream Of The Crop

SUVs | Sponsored Links

Sean Hannity's Car Is Anything But Conservative

Mortgage After Life

The Clever Reason Why Air Force One Is Painted Blue

Livestly

How Much Money Do You Really Get from a Reverse Mortgage?

NewRetirement

Theres One WD-40 Trick You Need To Know

Definition

Don't Get Stuck In A Timeshare You Don't Want

Yahoo Search

Eye In the Sky - See These Home Security Options!

Home Security | Search Ads

This Photo Has Not Been Edited, Look Closer

Travelfuntu

MORE FROM THE ADVOCATE

- Letters: Kennedy shows true colors on Kavanaugh
- Four booked on suspicion of DWI in Baton Rouge between Saturday, Sunday
- Baton Rouge lawyer who transmitted obscene videos suspended by Louisiana high court
- See where LSU fell, Florida moved up in USA Today Coaches Poll and AP Top 25
- Alabama coach Nick Saban ain't happy about thin student section at UL- Lafayette game...

MORE FROM OUR PARTNERS

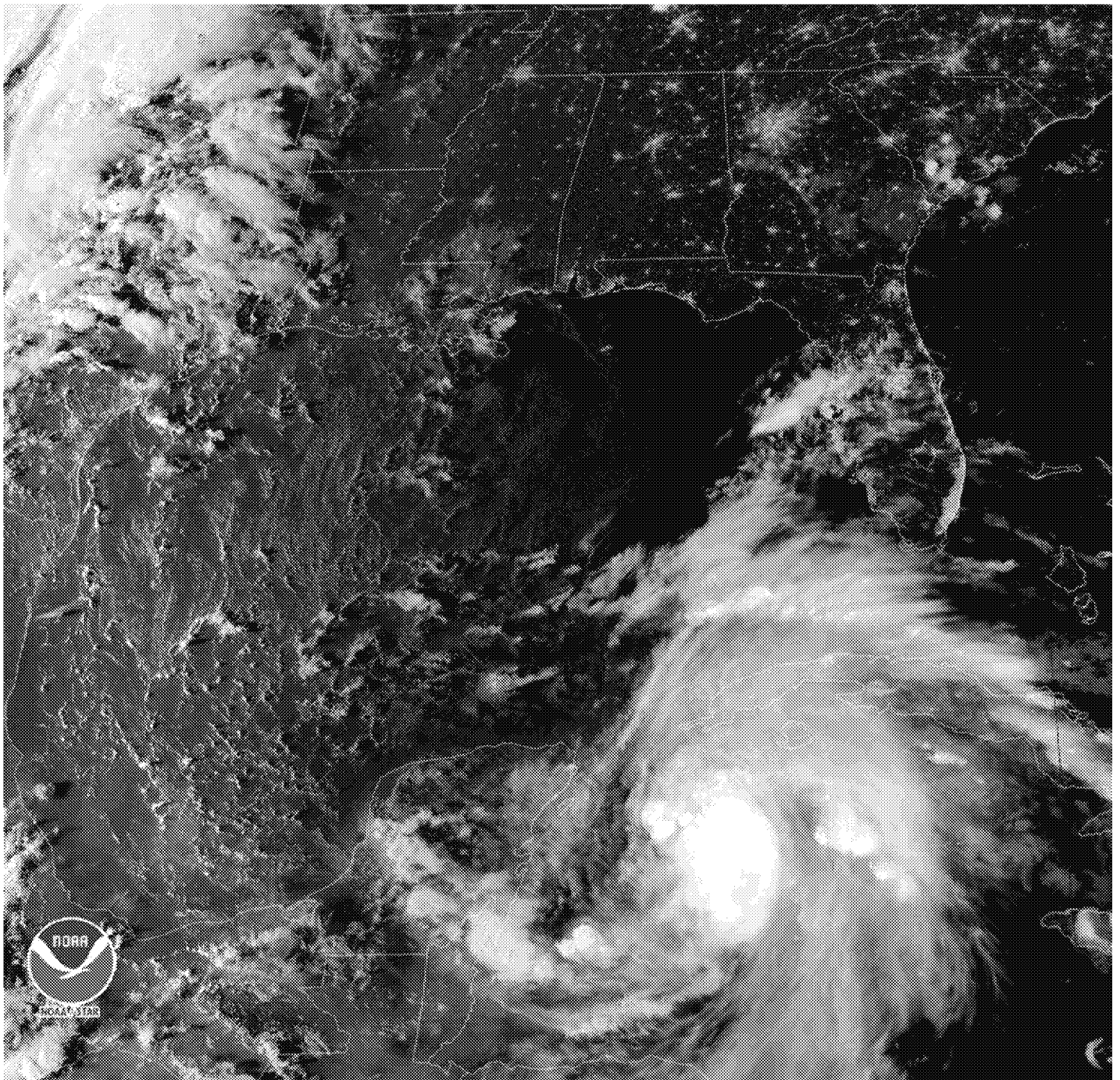
- [Photos] His Wife Cautiously Approached The Gorilla, What Happened Then Was Incredible (Hooch)
- If You Can Qualify for Any Credit Card, These Are the Top 6 (NerdWallet)
- [Gallery] Man Finds A Strange Spider In His Yard Before Realizing What He's Actually Looking At (Maternity Week)
- Maryland May Pay Off Your Home If You Live Near Ft. Washington (Fetcharate)
- [Gallery] Elephant's Reaction To Human In Trouble Is Leaving Everyone In Awe (Head Cramp)

Recommended by |

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_ac3b0116-cbbe-11e8-a66d-7f2a1cb24fb7.html

Hurricane Michael now Category 2, continues to strengthen as it tracks toward Florida

By JENNIFER KAY and GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press **OCT 9, 2018 - 7:20 AM**



This satellite image provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows a view of Tropical Storm Michael, lower right, churning as it heads toward the Florida Panhandle, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018, at 6:52 p.m. Eastern Time. (NOAA via AP)

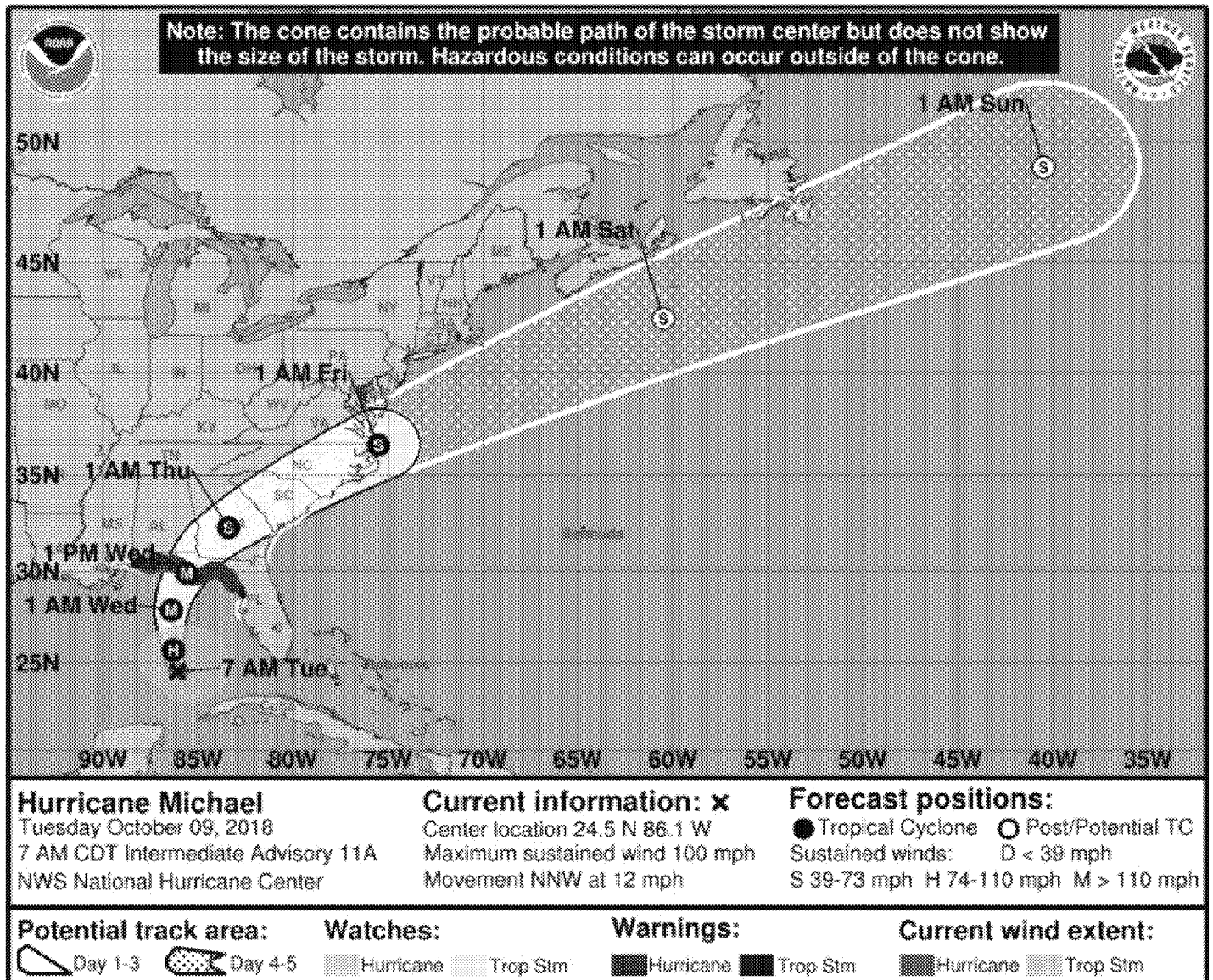
HOGP

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Michael swiftly intensified into a Category 2 over warm Gulf of Mexico waters Tuesday amid fears it would strike Florida on Wednesday as a major hurricane. Mandatory evacuations were issued as beach dwellers rushed to board up homes just ahead of what could be a devastating hit.

A hurricane hunter plane that bounced into the swirling eye off the western tip of Cuba found wind speeds rising. By 8 a.m. Tuesday, top winds had reached 100 mph (155 kph), and it was forecast to strengthen more, with winds topping 111 mph (179 kph), capable of causing devastating damage.

Gov. Rick Scott warned people across northwest Florida at a news conference Tuesday morning that the "monstrous hurricane" was just hours away, bringing deadly risks from high winds, storm surge and heavy rains.

Story Continued Below



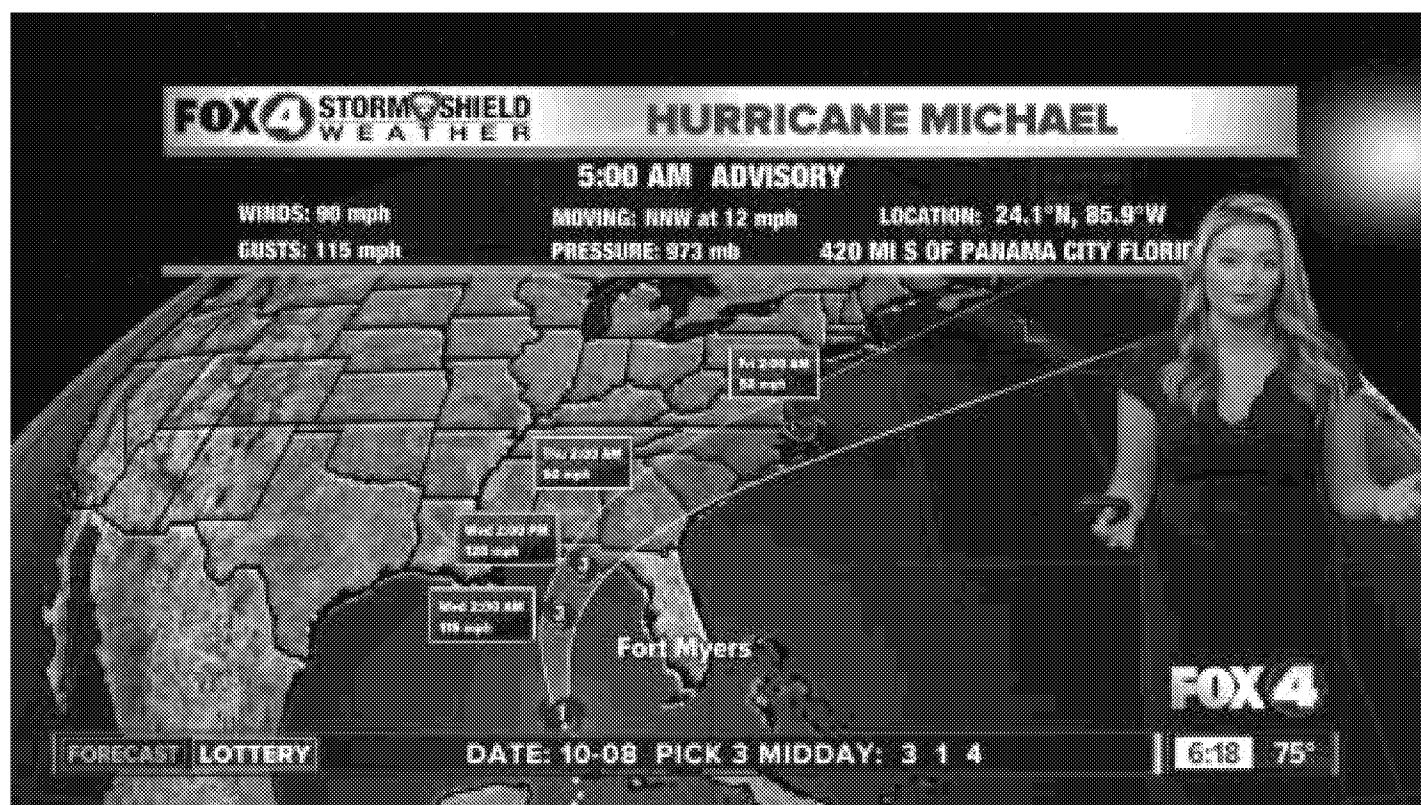
His opponent in Florida's Senate race, Sen. Bill Nelson, said a "wall of water" could cause major destruction along the Panhandle. "Don't think that you can ride this out if you're in a low-lying area," Nelson said on CNN.

Mandatory evacuation orders went into effect Tuesday morning for some 120,000 people in Panama City Beach and across other low-lying parts of the coast as Hurricane Michael approaches.

Parts of Florida's marshy, lightly populated Big Bend area could see up to 12 feet (3.7 meters) of storm surge, while Michael also could dump up to a foot (30 centimeters) of rain over some Panhandle communities as it moves inland, forecasters said.

"People need to start leaving now," Sheriff Tommy Ford told an emergency meeting Monday night. He said people will "not be dragged out of their homes," but anyone who stays behind will be on their own once the storm hits.

Can't see video below? Click here.

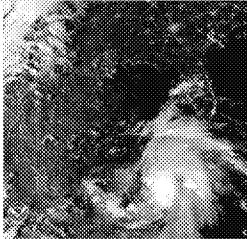


Forecasters warned that Michael could ultimately dump a foot (30 centimeters) of rain in western Cuba, triggering flash floods and mudslides in mountain areas.

Disaster agencies in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua reported 13 deaths as roofs collapsed and residents were carried away by swollen rivers. Six people died in Honduras, four in Nicaragua and three in El Salvador. Authorities were also searching for a boy swept away by a river in Guatemala. Most of the rain was blamed on a low-pressure system off the Pacific coast, but Hurricane Michael in the Caribbean could have also contributed.

Scott declared a state of emergency for 35 Florida counties, from the Panhandle to Tampa Bay, activated hundreds of Florida National Guard members and waived tolls to encourage evacuations.

He also warned caregivers at north Florida hospitals and nursing homes to do all possible to assure the safety of the elderly and infirm. Following Hurricane Irma last year, 14 people died when a South Florida nursing home lost power and air conditioning.



Florida, Alabama on emergency footing as potential for Michael to become major hurricane grows

"If you're responsible for a patient, you're responsible for the patient. Take care of them," he said.

Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan bluntly advised residents choosing to ride it out that first-responders won't be able to reach them while Michael smashes into the coast.

"If you decide to stay in your home and a tree falls on your house or the storm surge catches you and you're now calling for help, there's no one that can respond to help you," Morgan said at a news conference.

In the small Panhandle city of Apalachicola, Mayor Van Johnson Sr. said the 2,300 residents were frantically preparing for what could be a strike unlike any seen there in decades. Many filled sandbags and boarded up homes and lined up to buy gas and groceries before leaving town.

"We're looking at a significant storm with significant impact, possibly greater than I've seen in my 59 years of life," Johnson said of his city on the shore of Apalachicola Bay, which where about 90 percent of Florida's oysters are harvested.

There will be no shelters open in Wakulla County, the sheriff's office warned on Facebook, because they are rated safe only for hurricanes with top sustained winds below 111 mph (178 kph). With Michael's winds projected to be even stronger, residents were urged to evacuate inland.



As Hurricane Michael heads towards Florida, Louisiana's Elmer's Island will temporarily close

"This storm has the potential to be a historic storm, please take heed," the sheriff's office said in the post.

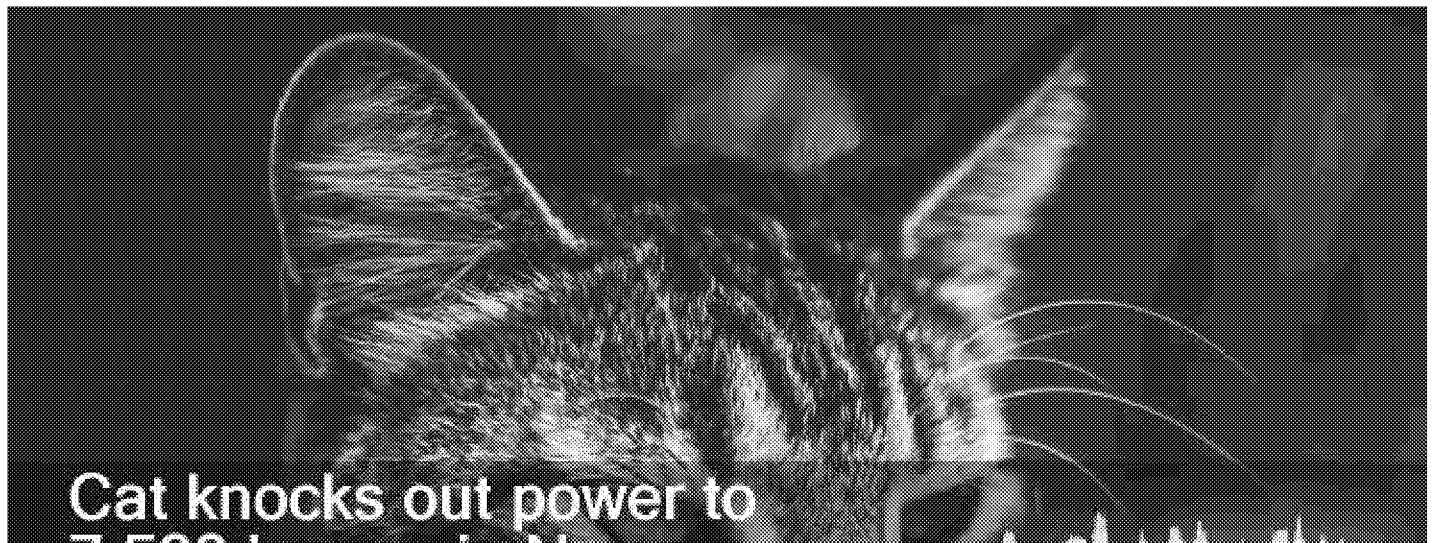
Neighbors in Alabama — the entire state is under an emergency declaration — also were bracing. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said she fears widespread power outages and other problems would follow. Forecasters also warned spinoff tornadoes would also be a threat.

With the storm next entering the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, which has warm water and favorable atmospheric conditions, "there is a real possibility that Michael will strengthen to a major hurricane before landfall," Robbie Berg, a hurricane specialist at the Miami-based storm forecasting hub, wrote in an advisory.

A large mound of sand in Tallahassee was whittled down to a small pile within hours Monday as residents filled sandbags against potential flooding.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, Florida's Democratic nominee for governor, filled sandbags with residents and urged residents of the state capital city to finish up emergency preparations quickly. Local authorities fear power outages and major tree damage from Michael.

"Today it is about life and safety," Gillum said. "There's nothing between us and this storm but warm water' and I think that's what terrifies us about the potential impacts."



**Cat knocks out power to
7,500 homes in New**

Click Here For
Education Expo

https://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/indian-american-students-named-winners-of-epa-s-president-s/article_194bd8dc-c81a-11e8-b646-870f343369d4.html

FEATURED

Indian American Students Named Winners of EPA's President's Environmental Youth Awards

India-West Staff Reporter Oct 5, 2018



Gitanjali Rao was one of the winners of EPA's President's Environmental Youth Award. (Twitter photo)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Sept. 21 announced the winners of the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators and the most recent winners of the President's Environmental Youth Award with a few Indian Americans receiving accolades.

From across the country, 10 educators and 49 students are being recognized for their efforts, the EPA said.

EPA honored these award-winning educators and honorable mention recipients at a series of events in Washington, D.C.

Through these programs, EPA is honoring the remarkable work of these educators and students in the field of environmental education and stewardship, it said.

The day's events Sept. 21 featured a ceremony with remarks by Matthew Z. Leopold, EPA general counsel, as well as special guest National Park Service Office of Public Health Director and U.S. Public Health Service Captain Sara B. Newman.

Winning teachers and students also presented their work at an afternoon poster session for all attendees as well as EPA leadership, the agency's news release said.

Students conducted projects including raising international awareness of a threatened bird species and the use of plastics, supporting local waterways, researching new biodegradable plastic, developing a new model for water efficient facilities, creating educational interactive electronic programs on sustainable urban development, and exploring a new economic way to test for lead in water, as well as recycling, composting, and supporting local ecology, the release said.

The PEYA program recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth, promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources, and encourages positive community involvement.

A few Indian American young students from across the country were among the recipients.

Among them were Texas-based students in EPA Region 6, Asvini T. and Madhalasa I. for their respective projects, "Save the Place Where We are Living and Save the Plane" and "Saving the Hands that Feed Us"; and Gitanjali Rao from Region 8 in Colorado for her project, "Developing a Technology for Water Quality Testing."

Gitanjali's project developed a speedy, accurate, and inexpensive test to detect lead contamination in water, with the potential for application to identify and prevent human exposure. She developed a device to accurately measure lead levels in water using nanotechnology and display it on a custom mobile app. The device is portable and can be reprogrammed for other contaminants. In addition to securing research and development funding and testing a prototype, Gitanjali is also actively promoting water quality awareness in her community, participating in TEDx conferences in India, and acting as a reporter for "TIME for Kids."

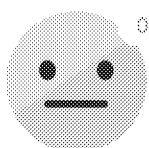
Information regarding the other kids' projects were not immediately available.

The PIAEE program recognizes innovative educators who bring environmental education into their classrooms through hands-on, experiential approaches. No Indian Americans were named as winners.

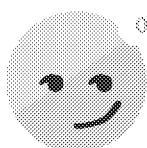
What is your reaction? Powered by Vuukle



happy



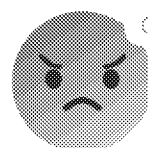
unmoved



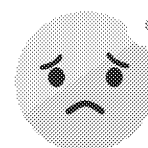
amused



excited



angry



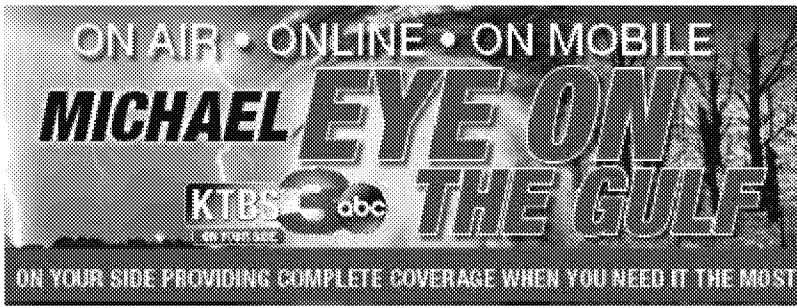
sad

0 comments

♥ Recommend 0

Write a comment

3000



<https://apnews.com/454abbb8e58947ae836bcbe159a67440>

AP

Trump to allow year-round sales of high-ethanol gasoline

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press Oct 8, 2018 Updated 8 hrs ago



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, speaks about the FBI investigation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Jacquelyn Martin

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is moving to allow year-round sales of gasoline with higher blends of ethanol, a boon for Iowa and other farm states that have pushed for greater sales of the corn-based fuel.

President Donald Trump is expected to announce he is lifting a federal ban on summer sales of high-ethanol blends during a trip to Iowa on Tuesday.

The long-expected announcement is something of a reward to Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, who as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman led a contentious but successful fight to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. The veteran Republican lawmaker is the Senate's leading ethanol proponent and sharply criticized the Trump administration's proposed rollback in ethanol volumes earlier this year.

At that time Grassley threatened to call for the resignation of the Environmental Protection Agency's chief, Scott Pruitt, if Pruitt did not work to fulfill the federal ethanol mandate. Pruitt later stepped down amid a host of ethics investigations.

A senior administration official said Monday that the EPA will publish a rule in coming days to allow high-ethanol blends as part of a package of proposed changes to the ethanol mandate. The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Trump's announcement.

The change would allow year-round sales of gasoline blends with up to 15 percent ethanol. Gasoline typically contains 10 percent ethanol.

The EPA currently bans the high-ethanol blend, called E15, during the summer because of concerns that it contributes to smog on hot days, a claim ethanol industry advocates say is unfounded.

In May, Republican senators, including Grassley, announced a tentative agreement with the White House to allow year-round E15 sales, but the EPA did not propose a formal rule change.

The senior administration official said the proposed rule intends to allow E15 sales next summer. Current regulations prevent retailers in much of the country from offering E15 from June 1 to Sept. 15.

Lifting the summer ban is expected to be coupled with new restrictions on trading biofuel credits that underpin the federal Renewable Fuel Standard, commonly known as the ethanol mandate. The law sets out how much corn-based ethanol and other renewable fuels refiners must blend into gasoline each year.

The Renewable Fuel Standard was intended to address global warming, reduce dependence on foreign oil and bolster the rural economy by requiring a steady increase in renewable fuels over time. The mandate has not worked as intended, and production levels of renewable fuels, mostly ethanol, routinely fail to reach minimum thresholds set in law.

The oil industry opposes year-round sales of E15, warning that high-ethanol gasoline can damage car engines and fuel systems. Some car makers have warned against high-ethanol blends, although EPA has approved use of E15 in all light-duty vehicles built since 2001.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers, many from oil-producing states, sent Trump a letter last week opposing expanded sales of high-ethanol gas. The lawmakers called the approach "misguided" and said it would do nothing to protect refinery jobs and "could hurt millions of consumers whose vehicles and equipment are not compatible with higher-ethanol blended gasoline."

The letter was signed by 16 Republicans and four Democrats, including Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, and Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, a key Trump ally. New Jersey Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, whose state includes several refineries, also signed the letter.

A spokeswoman for the Renewable Fuels Association, an ethanol industry trade group, said allowing E15 to be sold year-round would give consumers greater access to clean, low-cost, higher-octane fuel while expanding market access for ethanol producers.

"The ability to sell E15 all year would also bring a significant boost to farmers across our country" and provide a significant economic boost to rural America, said spokeswoman Rachel Gantz.

Copyright 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.